

# Commander's Call Topics



**July 5, 2012**

*"The airmen who attack these fires from above repeatedly confront dangerous conditions in an effort to give firefighters on the ground a chance to contain these wildfires -- to save homes, businesses, schools, and entire communities. They are [heroes who deserve the appreciation of a grateful nation.](#)" -- President Barack Obama in a statement, July 3, 2012.*

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [AF clarifies ITDY dependent travel, transportation allowances](#)

Air Force officials announced a clarification concerning transportation and travel allowances for Airmen tasked with 365-day extended deployments, commonly referred to as an indeterminate TDY (ITDY)

### [AETC commander addresses recruits' allegations of sexual misconduct](#)

The commander of the Air Force's Air Education and Training Command spoke about the on-going investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct by military training instructors at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

### [ANG announces C-130 crash victims](#)

Four Airmen died and two others were seriously injured when a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130 Hercules crashed July 1 while fighting a woodland fire in southwestern South Dakota

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Airmen selected for commissioning program](#)

More than four dozen enlisted Airmen have been selected for the 2012 Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced today

### [Airman Ranger retires after 41 years](#)

Col. George W. Hays, the director of Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems, Headquarters Alaskan Command, retired after 41 years of active duty service

### [Becoming an MTI? There's an app for that](#)

There's a smart phone application for just about everything these days, including joining the ranks of the Air Force's military training instructor corps.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Nominees sought for Joan Orr Spouse Award](#)

Air Force officials are seeking nominations for the 2013 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award

### [AF members gain PLAYpass use, discount opportunities](#)

Eligible Airmen and their families have the opportunity to use the PLAYpass Get Out and PLAY program to save hundreds of dollars with discounts in recreational and life skills classes

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, TECHNOLOGY

### [Officials seek nominations for aerospace awards](#)

Air Force officials are soliciting nominations for the 2013 Air Force Association Aerospace Awards for outstanding contributions to national defense in a variety of fields

### [A-10 first aircraft to use alcohol-based fuel](#)

On June 28, the 40th Flight Test Squadron made history here flying the first aircraft to use a new fuel blend derived from alcohol

### [45th SW launches NRO satellite](#)

The 45th Space Wing successfully launched a United Launch Alliance-built Delta IV-Heavy rocket from Space Launch Complex 37 on June 29

## ► RESOURCES

### **AF.mil**

<http://www.af.mil>

### **Airman magazine**

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

### **Air Force Community**

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

### **Air Force Outreach**

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

### **Military OneSource**

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

### **Military HOMEFRONT**

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

### **Air Force Personnel Center**

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

### **Air Reserve Personnel Center**

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

### **Department of Defense**

<http://www.defense.gov>

### **Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

<http://www.va.gov>

### **TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

### **U.S. Government Website**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

### **Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association**

#### **Scholarships**

<http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>

## ► Inappropriate behavior goes beyond sexual abuse

*During a recent press conference, Gen. Edward Rice, Jr., the commander of the Air Force's Air Education and Training Command, addressed allegations of sexual misconduct by military training instructors at Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland.*

*And while these allegations are serious, sexual assault and serious incidents of sexual misconduct represent a very small percentage of our Air Force. But in the everyday workplace, less serious, but just as troublesome examples of inappropriate behavior and misconduct can occur.*

*Here are a few examples of inappropriate behavior and things to avoid at work:*

*Sometimes words and actions that are totally acceptable in one environment can be considered inappropriate in another. For example, if Airman Susie Smith hits a grand slam homer during a squadron softball game, yelling a simple 'atta girl!' can be a show of encouragement, and is acceptable under the circumstances. Making the same remark when Airman Smith fixes a jammed copier in the office is not. Sometimes, our culture is to blame. We grow up with our relatives calling women "darlin', honey, sweetie or sugar" without any sexual overtones, but in the office it can easily be looked upon as inappropriate or disparaging. It's all a matter of professionalism in the work place.*

*Just about everywhere we turn, from cable TV to YouTube to satellite radio, off-color and sexually explicit jokes and the use of profanity seem to be part of the story line. But things that may be appropriate for an HBO special have no place at work. Off-color or sexually explicit jokes, phrases or video clips may be acceptable after hours at your favorite watering hole, but never in a work environment.*

*Another area to stay away from at work is the inappropriate touch. That innocent arm around the shoulder or pat on the back can easily be misconstrued, especially by the opposite sex, as inappropriate behavior. An arm around the waist or blocking someone from moving can be considered downright hostile, and therefore it is considered sexual misconduct.*

*Dating and the workplace mix as well as the proverbial oil and water. Especially where the potential for inappropriate and illegal fraternization exists. Keep flirting and your favorite pick-up lines for that favorite watering hole.*

*Email has become the number-one form of communication in the workplace, but it has also presented problems. Posting inappropriate emails or attaching images or video clips of a sexual nature are clear examples of sexual misconduct. They cannot only get you fired, they can lead to UCMJ action or criminal charges.*

*Sometimes inappropriate behavior is defined by the environment around you. Pictures or posters of scantily clad women (or men), sexually explicit music playing in the background or even an inappropriate screen saver on your computer can be construed as inappropriate.*

*Most examples of sexual harassment or misconduct in the workplace can easily be remedied by old-fashioned common sense. If there is any chance that your comments or actions can be taken out of context and considered inappropriate, don't do it.*

*Air Force Production  
Defense Media Activity, Ft. George G. Meade, Md.*

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**July 5, 1993** –Air Mobility Command moved 334 Soldiers and 850 short tons of equipment from Germany to Macedonia on 15 C-5 Galaxy, two C-141 Starlifter, and three C-130 Hercules missions to help the U.N. prevent the spread of fighting in the former Yugoslavia.

**July 6, 1953**– U.S. Air Forces Europe began Operation Kinderlift, an airlift of children from Berlin to West Germany, for a summer vacation in German and American homes.

**July 7, 1991** - The 436th Military Airlift Wing delivered 70 tons of food and relief supplies to N'Djamena, Chad, to help that country overcome a drought-induced food shortage.

**July 8, 1950** – During the Korean War, Lt. Oliver Duerksen and Lt. Frank Chermak provided the first forward air control to direct air-to-ground attacks from radio-equipped jeeps, as essentially the first air liaison officers.

**July 9, 1944** – During an attack on oil refineries in Ploesti, Romania, Lt Donald D. Pucket's B-24 Liberator received heavy and direct hits. He turned over controls of his bomber to the copilot to administer first aid and survey the damage. Although he jettisoned all the guns and equipment possible, the plane continued to lose altitude. Pucket ordered his crew to abandon ship, but three men refused. Therefore, he tried to control the plane. A few moments later, the flaming bomber crashed on a mountainside. For his courage and supreme sacrifice, Pucket received the Medal of Honor.

**July 10, 1952** – Beginning this date, over the next three weeks the 315th Air Division airlifted the 474th Fighter-Bomber Wing from Misawa Air Base, Japan, to Kunsan AB, South Korea, the largest unit movement by air to date.

**July 11, 1971** - In a joint operation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, seven UC-123K Providers from Langley Air Force Base, Va., and Hurlburt Field, Fla., and eight C-47 Skytrains from England AFB, Fla., began spraying Malathion on more than 2.5 million acres in southeast Texas to combat Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

*The Defense Media Activity produces Commander's Call Topics weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send e-mail to [afproducts@dma.mil](mailto:afproducts@dma.mil). To subscribe to Air Force news and information products online, go to [www.af.mil/information/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/information/subscribe).*

## ► Swimming Safety

*(Editor's Note: As part of the Air Force's campaign for safety, especially in the summer, Commander's Call Topics is presenting safety tips each week throughout the Summer. This week's topic is safe swimming.)*

*According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the years 2005-09, there was an average of 3,533 fatal unintentional drownings (non-boating related) annually in the United States—about 10 deaths per day. An additional 347 people died each year from drowning in boating-related incidents.*

*Here are seven ways for you to stay safe:*

- 1. Pools should be equipped with readily available rescue equipment such as a solid pole, rope, life ring or crook. Keep emergency phone numbers poolside, and equip the pool and adjacent doors with alarms. Almost all jurisdictions require that the pool be enclosed, and it's best not to use the house as one of the sides of the pool enclosure.*
- 2. Never swim alone, and don't swim under the influence of drugs or alcohol.*
- 3. Know the difference between toys that help you float and flotation devices. All flotation devices should be U. S. Coast Guard approved.*
- 4. Respect heavy surf, and don't stand in the ocean with your back toward it. You risk getting knocked down.*
- 5. If you hear thunder, get out of the water, whether you're in a pool or open water. Swimming during a storm is more than risky — it could be life-altering.*
- 6. Diving into shallow or murky water or any water of unknown depth is to be avoided, especially in lakes, ponds or quarries. Rocks and debris pose a life-threatening hazard.*
- 7. If you get caught in a rip tide or rip current in the ocean (feeling that you are being tugged out to sea), swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current, and then swim to shore. Above all: Stay calm.*

*--Martha Lockwood  
Chief Information Products  
Air Force Production*